fication in Indonesia worth Rs. 7·5 crores and are pursuing further participation in railway and road modernisation projects.

Australia :

Various aspects of bilateral co-operation were discussed with the Australian Government and State Railways which included collaboration in heavy haul transport technology, double-decker E.M.U. services and cooperation between Railway Research Organisations of both countries. Areas of possible cooperation between consultant agencies of two countries including the possibilities of joint ventures in Third Countries were also explored.

Vayudoot service to Sawai Madhopur

*39. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sawai Madhopur, a prominent tourist spot in Rajasthan, is visited by thousands of foreign and domestic tourists ;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be connected with Vayudoot services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) As per information available from the State Government, the number of tourists who visited Sawai Madhopur during 1988 are estimated to be 39,100 including 2,175 foreign tourists.

(b) The aircraft capacity, presently available, with Vayudoot is fully committed to maintaining its existing schedule of operations and offers no scope for immediate inclusion of Sawai Madhopur in its operational network.

Indians in Sri Lanka

*40. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indian Nationals who had to leave Sri Lanka during the last three months;

(b) total number of Indian nationals residing in Sri Lanka as on March 31, 1989; and

(c) what is the total number of Indians granted citizenship of Sri Lanka during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) 138 (approximately).

(b) 131,150 (approximately).

(c) 59,168 (estimated).

Bharati Permission sought by Rabindra University for Light and Sound Programme

76. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rabindra Bharati University has asked for Government's permission for introducing light and sound programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that everything, including lighting and script were ready for the proposed light and sound show ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving necessary permission to the University ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Department of Tourism the project for the mounting of Sound & Light show at Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta was sanctioned by that Department on 25-3-86 at a cost of Rs. 15.50 lakhs out of which first instalment of Rs. 3 lakhs was released on 25-3-86 and second instalment of Rs. 7 lakhs on 5-3-87.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Imprisonment of Indians in Singapore

77. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN :
SHRI ANAND SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent news item that over 70 Indians have been charged and some of them have been sentenced to imprisonment and three strokes of cane for overstaying in Singapore under a new tough immigration law that came into force on April 30, this year; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government of India with the Government of Singapore to defuse the situation and to help the helpless Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian nationals charged under the Immigration (Amendment) Act, 1989, enacted by the Government of Singapore, which came into force with effect from 31-3-1989, were given assistance in obtaining legal aid. 10 Indian nationals were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment. Each of the 10 Indians was also sentenced to 3 strokes of the cane. The Government took up the matter with the concerned authorities of Government of Singapore with a view to persuading them to grant the clemency petition filed by 9 of the Indians. The President of Singapore granted clemency in respect of the sentence of caning on 3rd July, 1989. The prison sentences have however, not yet been reduced. In respect of the 10th Indian national, his appeal to the High Court of Singapore is pending.

On 17th July, 1989, the Singapore Government announced a second and final amnesty to enable all immigration offenders including those who have been arrested but are awaiting trial or repatriation, to be repatriated, without punishment from 18th July, until 8th August, 1989.

A team of senior officers of Ministry of External Affairs also visited Singapore recently and had detailed discussions with the concerned authorities with a view to prevent recurrence of the cases of illegal entry/stay of Indians in Singapore.

78. [*Transferred to the 27 July*, 1989]

Conversion of Purulia Kotshika Line into Broad Gauge

79. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to include the Purulia Kotshila narrow gauge into broad gauge in the conversion programme in the Eighth Five Year Plan ; and